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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/17/2016

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SUBJECT: UN/IRAQ: IRAQI CHARGE ON MNF REVIEW, UNAMI AND UNMOVIC

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor William J. Brencick, Reason  
s: 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) MNF Review: In a May 16 meeting, Ambassador Bolton and Iraqi Charge Estrabadi discussed the upcoming June UNSC review of the mandate for the Multi National Force-Iraq (MNF-I). Estrabadi said he had heard rumors of Russian proposals that would derail the mandate review and wanted to make sure the U.S., UK and Iraq were on the same page. He had no further details and said in a recent meeting at the Russian request, DPR Dolgov had said only that Moscow was reviewing its thinking.

¶2. (C) Ambassador Bolton urged that the new Iraqi government clearly request of the UNSC the continued presence of the MNF in Iraq, as it did prior to the 2005 UNSC review. He specifically encouraged sending a letter from FM Zeybari to the UNSC President and ensuring FM participation in the June quarterly meeting of the UNSC. Estrabadi agreed that a clear message from the new Iraqi government would be important to a successful UNSC mandate review and opined that such a letter would not be difficult for Zeybari. He also said he would engage with the French and Russian representatives. Bolton welcomed this and encouraged concerted diplomatic outreach with Qatar.

¶3. (C) Estrabadi said he had also heard rumors about the August renewal of UNAMI and a possible new UN role in Iraq. Bolton proposed to delay detailed discussions on this issue until the new government is in place and articulates its priorities for the UN. However, he noted that we do not want to give the UN a significant task that it cannot or will not fulfill and create gaps in implementation.

¶4. (C) UNMOVIC: Bolton and Estrabadi agreed that it is time to close UNMOVIC. Bolton acknowledged that Washington had been waiting for the right occasion to move ahead, but said there is no further reason for delay. He proposed an expert level U.S.-UK-Iraq working group meet in New York this week to map out a strategy. Estrabadi welcomed this suggestion, while conceding that his own Mission had been constrained in pursuing this issue until the permanent government was in place.  
BOLTON